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Attorney Docket No. 00048/LH

JUN 22 2005

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Masaru SUDO et al

Serial No. : 09/496,061

Filed : February 1, 2000

For : ENDOSCOPE IMAGE SENSING
METHOD AND APPARATUS

Art Unit : 2613

Examiner : Shawn S. An

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a Japanese Office Action dated May 10, 2005
(and English translation thereof) issued in the
counterpart Japanese application;
- (2) Copies of cited publications; and
- (3) Form PTO/SB/08A.

An English translation of said Japanese Office Action is provided, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

The references cited under "Prior Art Search Report" in the Japanese Office Action (see page 2 of the translation of the Japanese Office Action) are not a part of the Japanese Office Action and are not references of interest in the present application. Therefore, they are not being cited as part of the present IDS.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE
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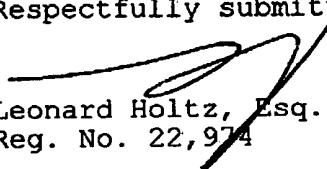
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STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e) (1)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from foreign patent offices in counterpart foreign applications not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of May 10, 2005. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

It is requested that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,


Leonard Holtz, Esq.
Reg. No. 22,974

Encls.

Dated: June 22, 2005

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|--|---|----------------------|------------------|----------|
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | Application Number | 09/496,061 | |
| | | Filing Date | February 1, 2000 | |
| | | First Named Inventor | M. SUDO | |
| | | Group Art Unit | 2613 | |
| | | Examiner Name | Shawn S. An | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | |
| Attorney Docket Number | | | | 00048/LH |

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam. Inits* | Cite No ¹ | Document Number | Kind Code ² | Name of Patentee or Applicant | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Portion |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam. Inits. | Cite No ¹ | Offc ³ | Document Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ | Name of Patentee or Applicant | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Portion | T ⁶ |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | | JP | 07-298293 10-290469 | A A | | 11-10-1995 10-27-1998 | | |

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: June 22, 2005